

## REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation, the indication that claims 1, 4, 6 and 8 are deemed allowed.

The Official Action and the cited reference have been carefully reviewed. The review indicates that the claims, especially as amended, recite patentable subject and should be allowed. Reconsideration and allowance are therefore respectfully requested.

In advance of contending with the grounds upon which the rejection is based, a brief summarization of the essentials of the invention process will be provided for purposes of clarifying the outstanding issues advanced in support of the rejection and to facilitate better grasp of the invention process in light of JP 59-115786.

Claim 5 was rejected under the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of 35 USC §112, for the asserted reason that it fails to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter for which protection is sought; however, in view of the amendments made to claims 1 and 5, the metal oxide Markush group now recited in claim 1 resolve the inconsistency between former claim 5 and former claim 1.

Accordingly, the scope of claim 5 is now outside of the contention that it was not defined with a reasonable degree of precision.

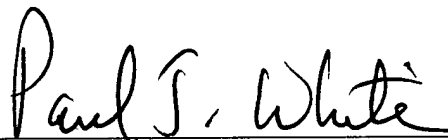
While it is not clear whether JP 59-115786 is being relied upon in support of either a 102 or 103-type rejection, the amendment to claim 1 now makes it clear that it is a biomass hydrolyzate medium that is being contacted with a metal oxide. Accordingly, even though a ceramic material, porous metallic material or a Ni alloy in granular form is put into a reactor containing waste water that contains phenol, to remove ammonia and COD components, this

waste water is clearly not a biomass hydrolysate medium. But in any case, the process of JP 359115786 A only removes, simultaneously, ammonia and COD components. COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand components) is a test for measuring the quantity of oxygen in water, or a measure of water quality.

Accordingly, the disclosure in JP 57225285 neither anticipates nor renders obvious, applicants' process as present recited.

In view of the foregoing amendments, remarks and arguments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul J. White". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Paul J. White  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 30,436

Dated: June 11, 2003.

NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY  
1617 Cole Boulevard  
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393  
Telephone: (303) 384-7575  
Facsimile: (303) 384-7499